

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4130

FOR RUTH DEHAAN, OES/OFA/MST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TGEN, TECH, SF

SUBJ: NATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE POLICIES

REF: STATE 186529

1. EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS SAG AGENCIES IN
RESPONSE REFTEL REVEAL SOUTH AFRICA STILL IN EARLY STAGES
OF FORMULATING NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT OF MARINE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. SANCOR, SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL
COMMITTEE FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, HAS BEEN CHARGED
WITH COORDINATING WORK OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS
IN MARINE RESEARCH AND, AS PART OF THIS, IN FORMULATING
GENERAL STATEMENTS OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. THUS FAR
STATEMENTS ARE STILL IN PRELIMINARY FORM AND COVER ONLY
SUBJECTS OF MARINE BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL SANCOR OFFICIAL STATES
STATEMENTS ON MARINE GEOLOGY AND ENGINEERING IN PROCESS OF
BEING DRAFTED AND EXPECTED TO BE READY IN FIRST HALF OF 1977.
STATEMENTS THUS FAR PREPARED ARE BSICALLY LISTS OF PROJECT
SUBJECTS IN WHICH RESEARCH IS TO BE CONCENTRATED. NO MENTION
IS MADE OF SPECIFIC MECHANICS FOR COORDINATING RESEARCH AMONG
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VARIOUS AGENCIES ALTHOUGH SOME SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE IDENTIFIED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTICULAR PROJECTS.

2. SANCOR IS DIVISION OF COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR) WHICH IS COUNTRY'S MAJOR GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION. SANCOR COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF 35 SA ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED OR INTERESTED IN MARINE RESEARCH, ALL BUT ONE OF WHICH ARE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. PRIVATE FIRMS PERMITTED BECOME MEMBERS ON PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEES BUT ONLY ONE HAS DONE SO. SANCOR FUNDS SOME MARINE RESEARCH OUT OF ITS OWN GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND ALSO ENDEAVORS COORDINATE RESEARCH PROJECTS OF MEMBER AGENCIES. VIRTUALLY ALL FUNDING INVOLVED THUS FAR IS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED. SANCOR IS PREPARED ORGANIZE MARINE RESEARCH PROJECTS ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR PRIVATE FIRMS BUT LITTLE HAS BEEN THUS FAR DONE IN THIS AREA.

3. IN ADDITION TO SANCOR, THERE ARE TWO NATIONAL MARINE ORGANIZATIONS, (1) DIVISION OF DEEP SEA FISHERIES (DEPT. OF INDUSTRIES), AND (2) NATIONAL INSITUTUE OF OCEANOLOGY, BOTH IN CAPE TOWN AREA WHICH ARE REPORTED TO HAVE STATEMENTS ON MARINE RESEARCH WITHIN THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS. AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN HAS AGREED CONTACT THESE AGENCIES IN EFFORT SECURE WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

4. EMBASSY POUCHING COPY OF SANCOR STATEMENTS ON MARINE BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY TO OES/OFA/MST.

5. ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN PARA 2 REFTEL AS FOLLOWS:

(A) YES, BUT ONLY IN PRELIMINARY AND PARTIAL FORM. SEE PARA 1 ABOVE.

(B) NO.

(C) SANCOR POLICY TOO RECENT TO HAVE ANY RESULTS.

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN MAY HAVE SUPPLEMENTARY INFO ON FISHERIES SIDE.

(D) NO EVIDENCE OF NATIONAL POLICY IN THIS AREA.

(E) SANCOR STATEMENTS MAKE NO REFERENCE TO REGIONAL COOPERATION BUT SAG HAS IN PAST BEEN RECEPTIVE TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN MARINE RESEARCH.

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